

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 STR-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05

IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-02 H-02 /099 W

----- 112957

R 130635Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9855

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEAN, MY

SUBJ: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 102360, STATE 283832 (1974)

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTELS, DCM AND ECON COUNSELOR IN LOW-KEY APPROACH MAY 8 REITERATED TO MON JAMALUDDIN, SEC GEN FOR ASEAN, US WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH ASEAN ON ECONOMIC MATTERS IF ASEAN INTERESTED IN DOING SO. JAMALUDDIN STATED THAT ASEAN MEMBERS EARLIER HAD FELT THAT IN PRINCIPLE, ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WITH US WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL BUT THAT IN VIEW EXCLUSION OF INDONESIA FROM GSP BENEFITS IT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED PREFERABLE TO DELAY. IN CASE OF MALAYSIA, MFA HAD REQUESTED MINISTRY TRADE AND INDUSTRY FOR ANALYSIS OF AREAS (INCLUDING TRADE ACT) IN WHICH CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY (AND FROM TONE, WE DOUBT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUEST WAS PRESSED). HE STATED THAT US/ASEAN ECONOMIC

CONSULTATIONS NOT ON AGENDA OF UPCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING IN KL AND NOTED THAT BY THIS SUMMER ASEAN SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE FUNCTIONING IN JAKARTA AND THAT STAFF WOULD INCLUDE A PERSON WHO WOULD BE FOCAL POINT FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS. IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED THAT THAI NOTE DID NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT ASEAN VIEWS RE PROPER CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, INCLUDING STATUS OF GREEN AMENDMENT, EVIDENT THAT SIGNIFICATN MOVEMENT ON CONSULTATIONS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS NMO LIKELY FOR "SEVERAL MONTHS." QUESTION OF US/PHILIPPINE BI-LATERAL TALKS DID NOT COME UP.

2. RE KL MINISTERIAL MEETING, JAMALUDDIN STATED THAT AGENDA CONSISTED OF SEVERAL "NOT TOO IMPORTANT" ITEMS AND THAT REAL SUBSTANCE OF MEETING WOULD BE INFORMAL DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS ON INDOCHINA AND SEA. JAMALUDDIN STATED THAT PM, WHO ALSO HOLDS FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO, INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE, ACCOMPANIED BY "ONE OR TWO MINISTERS."

3. COMMENT. OUR EVALUATION OF REAL ASEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WITH US IS THAT, WHILE THERE WAS MILD, GENERAL INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A DILOGUE (IN THE CASE OF MALAYSIA, PROBABLY CONDITIONED ON WHETHER THEY CONCLUDE THAT THERE ARE, IN FACT, SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT COULD BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED), THEY ARE CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED BY INDOCHINA. THE SUBJECT IS BY NO MEANS DEAD, BUT ANY MOVEMENT WILL AWAIT ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRETARIAT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW MEETING. UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA02604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750167-0989
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750558/aaaacahf.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 102360, 75 STATE 283832, 75 (197
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: ECON, MY, US, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006